In the river of time, the boat containing the lovers. Chad and Mme. Vionnet, is the tide of experience buoyed up in order to illumine the still, steady depths of life and refine the consciousness of Strether. What he has all along considered to be a 'Virtuous attachment" is now revealed to be an immoral and ugly one. The beauty which he had discovered and appreciated is now revealed to be only a mask hiding beneath It evil and ugliness. This discovery does not come to him as a shock, but as an intimation of what life really is. It is, therefore, not surprising that he pardons the lovers with feelings of sympathy, charity and love. He realizes that although all should do what they must, in actuality all do what they can. He is himself no exception to this, but the experience of Europe gives this chastened American a chance of viewing his own consciousness from outside for a moment of eternity; and that single bath of his nature in the vitalities of life transform and transfigure his selfhood. The 'ambassador' succeeds in his failure to accomplish his 'embassy'.

The education of Strether is complete only when he "sees" the evil and ugliness of Europe, as surely as he had seen its good and beauty, and grasps their inseparable unity in the total drama of life.

Life in Paris pulses with art and beauty, and Strether is impressed by the aestheticism and manners of Paris. Chad has improved remarkably, because of the beneficial influence of a charming woman. Strether greatly admires Mme. Vionnet for her distinction, charm and amiability.

Deserted by her husband, "a polished, impertinent reprobate", Mme. Vionnet and her lovely and innocent daughter Jeanne, have befriended Chad and made him what he is. Strether is informed by Biiham that the attachment between Chad and Mme. de Vionnet is a "virtuous" one. He believes for some time that Chad would one day marry the pretty Jeanne. He does not, therefore, want to break an association which has done so much good to Chad. Both Gostrey and Biiham know the true nature of the relationship between Chad and

Mme. Vionnet, but they deliberately lie in order that Strether might discover the truth for himself. Strether himself agrees that little Biiham had lied like a gentleman; if he and Gostrey had not lied, Strether would have promptly reverted to his Woollett prejudices to the detriment of his moral growth. Strether soon surpasses his teachers in the education of the self. Unlike them, he overgrows the necessity of a protective mask of selfhood and mendacity in order to assuage the blinding flashes of truth, He, above all the rest, can suffer truth truly. In him Patience and passiprr gome together ? in hjfn